

# School District of Indian River County

"A CommUNITY Partnership Toward Educational Excellence"

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## SCHOOL BOARD

Karen Disney-Brombach  
District 1

Lenora Quimby  
District 2

Carol Johnson  
District 3

Ann Reuter  
District 4

Debbie J. MacKay  
District 5

Harry J. La Cava, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

At  
Meeting  
Notice

November 5, 2008

U.S. Congressman David J. Weldon, M.D.

U.S. Senator Mel Martinez

Representative Deborah Mayfield

✓ Indian River County, Board of County Commissioners' Office

✓ City of Sebastian, Council Members' Office

✓ City of Vero Beach, Council Members' Office

✓ City of Fellsmere, Council Members' Office

✓ Town of Indian River Shores, Council Members' Office

✓ Indian River Chamber of Commerce

Taxpayers Association, Indian River County, Inc.

✓ WWCI Channel 10

School District of Indian River County:

✓ County Council PTA

✓ Communication Workers of America (CWA)

✓ IRC Education Association (IRCEA)

SUBJECT: Legislative Meeting Notice is Attached

The purpose of this notice is to keep you informed as to our upcoming meeting with the Local Legislative Delegation regarding our efforts to prepare the School District for the challenges that lie ahead.

Our School Board understands that to fulfill our vision to "educate and inspire every student to be successful" we must partner with our community and our Legislative Delegation. It is by communicating well with one another and by sharing our Vision that we are able to lead our students to success.

Sincerely,

Karen Disney-Brombach, Chairman  
School Board - District of Indian River County

772-564-3200 (O)

772-473-8383 (C)

772-564-3105 (F)

Karen.disney@indianriverschools.org

KDB/jas

Enclosures: 2009 Legislative Priorities  
Resolution 2009-04 (Board's Opposition to Amendment 5)  
Meeting Notice

1990 25th Street ♦ Vero Beach, Florida 32960-3395

Telephone: 772-564-3200 ♦ Fax: 772-564-3105

[www.indian-river.k12.fl.us](http://www.indian-river.k12.fl.us)

Equal Opportunity Educator and Employer

**SCHOOL BOARD OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY  
2009 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

1. Continue to distribute Class Size funds on a pro-rata FTE basis for equity among districts and continue current flexibility language in the use of these funds. Reinstate full state funding of Classroom for Kids for the cost of additional schools and classrooms to meet the state's responsibility under the current class size reduction amendment with funds distributed on a per FTE basis and amend the Classroom for Kids funding formula.

In addition, increase the 1997 per-student-station cost cap to reflect the current market-basket construction index either by district or by region in Florida as it does not reflect annually changing price increases for labor and materials, especially steel and concrete.

2. Increase the Base Student Allocation (BSA) to provide adequate and competitive increases for enrollment, price level inflation, teacher and other employee salaries and to provide quality academic program improvements to enhance student achievements, consistent with Article IX, Section 1 of the Florida Constitution which makes it "a paramount duty of the state to make provision for the education of all children residing within its borders."
3. Fold the ESE Guaranteed Allocation and Student Academic Improvement (SAI) back into the base FEFP and restore program weights for program levels 251, 252 and 253 to ensure adequacy of funding for student growth.
4. Provide funding for emergency shelters construction, operation and clean up, or move the responsibility to another public agency with taxing authority to pay for it.

**Continuing Items of Priority**

5. Voluntary Pre-K classroom space should be recognized on the Florida Inventory of School Housing (FISH) report as requiring classroom space similar to any other student program.
6. Oppose any increase in statewide equalization of Discretionary millage until funding adequacy is addressed for high property value districts.
7. The District Cost Differential should weigh the cost of housing to a greater degree as opposed to using wages to be the major determining factor for cost of living differences between districts.
8. Teacher applicants who hold a Professional Certificate and/or are considered Highly Qualified in another state, should receive a Professional Certificate and be considered Highly Qualified in Florida. These teachers should not be required to pass an SAE or to complete a Florida HOUSS Plan.
9. Form a summer study committee to examine the long term impact of FCAT administration as well as the long term effects of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade retention.
10. Allow School Boards to levy ½ penny sales tax with a super majority vote of the Board for construction of classroom space and renovation and remodeling of existing educational facilities.

**RESOLUTION 2009-04**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF INDIAN RIVER, FLORIDA  
CALL TO ACTION OPPOSING AMENDMENT 5**

**WHEREAS**, the School Board of Indian River County, Florida opposes Amendment 5 because it eliminates Required Local Effort, which is a stable tax base upon which to fund public education, and replaces Required Local Effort with sales taxes, which are an unstable tax base, much more subject to fluctuations downward in slower economic times; and

**WHEREAS**, the School Board of Indian River County, Florida opposes Amendment 5 because it does not identify specific, definitive and secure sources of revenue replacement for the Required Local Effort which it proposes to eliminate; and

**WHEREAS**, the School Board of Indian River County, Florida opposes Amendment 5 because it proposes to increase the state sales tax and eliminates certain current sales tax exemptions which have not yet been fully determined; and

**WHEREAS**, the School Board of Indian River County, Florida opposes Amendment 5 because the aforementioned proposed sales tax is projected to generate a lower amount of revenue received than the amount of the school funds that will be lost by the elimination of the Required Local Effort.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the School Board of Indian River County, Florida that:

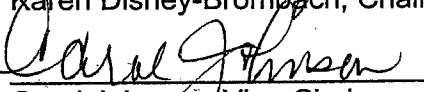
The Board, as a collegial body, stands firmly opposed to Amendment 5 because, if enacted it will cause an unprecedented loss of revenue in the State of Florida's public education system; and

The Board stands firmly opposed to Amendment 5, because if passed, it will prevent the Legislature from fully funding public education in the State of Florida as required by Article IX, Section 1 of the Florida Constitution.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, the School Board Members have hereunto subscribed their names and have caused the Official Seal of the School Board of Indian River County, Florida to be hereunto affixed in the City of Vero Beach on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2008.

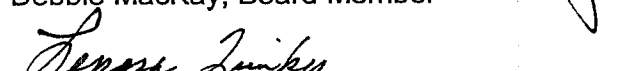
ATTEST:

  
Karen Disney-Brombach, Chairman

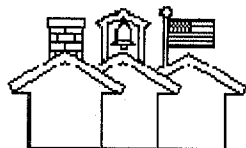
  
Carol Johnson, Vice-Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Debbie MacKay, Board Member

  
Lenora Quimby, Board Member

  
Ann Reuter, Board Member



## **School District of Indian River County**

**"A COMMUNITY Partnership Toward Educational Excellence"**

**Harry J. La Cava, Ed.D., Superintendent**

### **NOTICE OF**

### **LOCAL LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST**

### **HOSTED BY: DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

**PURPOSE:** The School Board will meet with the Local Legislative Committee to share ideas on how to keep our School District on the right track as Florida experiences challenges and change. The Board looks forward to reviewing its 2009 Local Legislative Priorities and giving an update on some of the victories we've had as a District and a School Board this past year.

#### **Meeting Notice:**

Legislative Breakfast on Wednesday, November 12, 2008

Location: Alternative Center for Education

Room: Eagle's Nest

Address: 4680 28<sup>th</sup> Court, Vero Beach, FL

Telephone Number: 564-6240

Workshop Time: 9:00 a.m.

Contact: Board Office at (772) 564-3200